

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0054] as follows:

[0054] The circuit of Figure 6, also shows a first diode string 172 coupled between a supply voltage source V_{DD} (e.g., a voltage source of 5V, 3.3V, 2.5V or 1.8V) and the I/O pad 166 and a second diode string 174 coupled between a supply voltage source V_{SS} and the I/O pad 166. Each diode string 172 and 174 includes one or more diodes 176. In the preferred embodiment, the diode 176 comprises a diode of the type described in co-pending application Serial No. 10/641,813 (attorney docket TSM03-0554), which published as Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0035410 on February 17, 2005 and which is incorporated herein by reference. For example, diode string 172 can include a diode 176 with a p-doped region coupled to I/O pad 166 and another 176 (or the same diode in a one diode string) with an n-doped region coupled to V_{DD} . The diode string 174 is coupled between the I/O pad 166 and the reference voltage V_{SS} (e.g., ground). In this case, a p-doped region is coupled to ground and an n-doped region is coupled to the pad 166.